

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: SAKUMA et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/074,961
FILED: February 13, 2002
FOR: CIRCULAR-SHAPED METAL STRUCTURE, METHOD ...
GROUP: 2852
EXAMINER: ROBERT B. BEATTY DOCKET: AMANO A275 DIV

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER AND REQUEST TO LIFT SUSPENSION

Dear Sir:

Applicants previously filed an RCE with a request for three (3) month suspension. It is respectfully requested that the previously requested suspension be lifted, and the application be returned to active examination status.

A Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 providing additional comparative tests of electroplated and spinning-worked belts is enclosed herewith. The Declaration is being filed in duplicate as it was separately executed by the two inventors.

Examination of the application and early allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,315

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on February 3, 2004 at Tucson, Arizona.

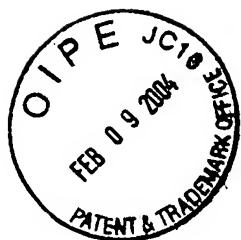
By: 

NPS:sb

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

The undersigned, being the named inventors of the above identified application, declare and state as follows:

(1) This Declaration is being filed in further support of our above identified U.S. application and supplements our previously filed Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132.

(2) We understand the Examiner, in the Advisory Action mailed October 15, 2003 considers our previous Declaration to be insufficient to overcome Hori et al. U.S. Patent 6,413,689 because we did not show that the demonstrated fatigue stress is comparable to Vicker's hardness as claimed. In response thereto, we ran additional comparative tests of electroplated and spinning-worked belts on a test unit as shown in Fig. 4. The dimension of the belts are set forth on the attached page bearing Fig. 4. The relation between stress and load application cycle was measured while the first or second sleeve was rotated around the rollers and the results reported in Fig. 3.

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Serial No. 10/375,239
Docket No: NEC TD098 DIV
Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132

Also, as shown in the attached Figs. 1 and 2, as thickness - reduction rate becomes higher, Vicker's hardness and tensile strength both become higher in a spinning - worked sleeve.

We hereby declare that all statements made hereof of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: _____ By: _____
Masaru Sakuma

Date: January 28, 2004 By: Yoji Ito
Yoji Ito

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

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FIG. 1

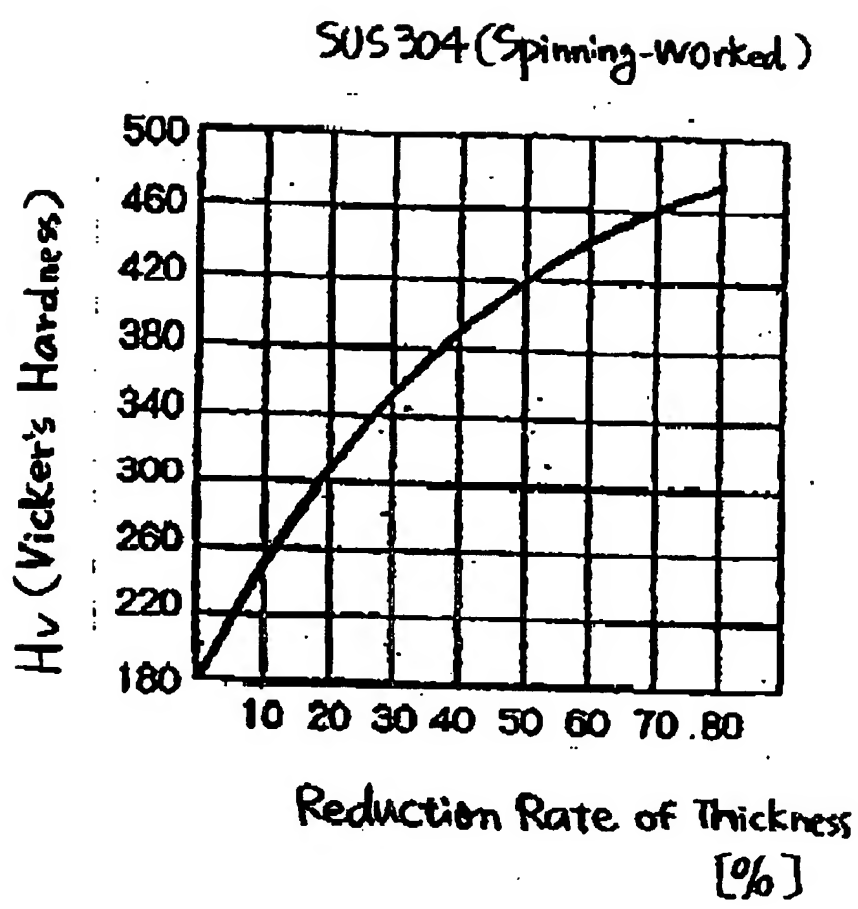
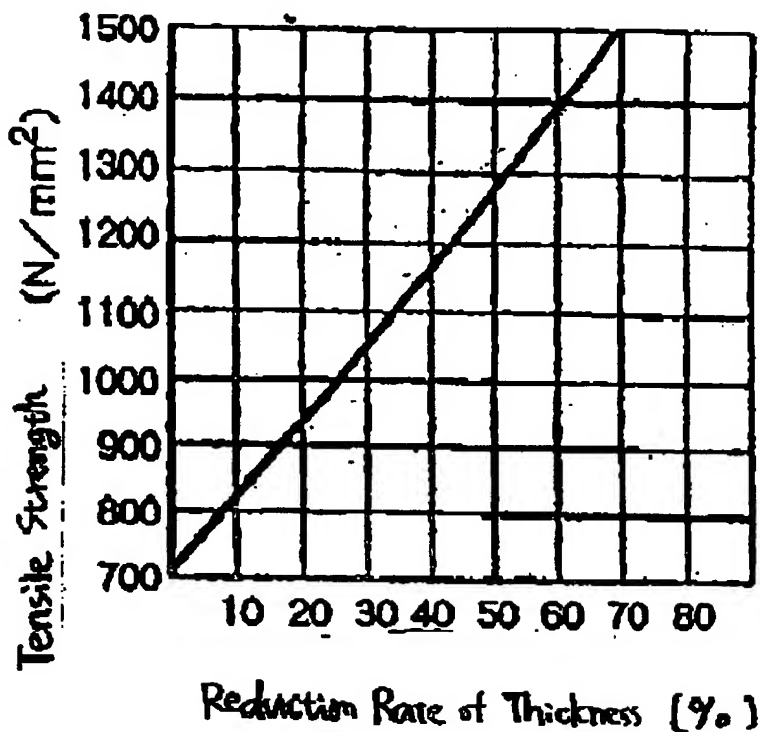




FIG. 2

SUS304 (Spinning-Worked)





216.3

<FATIGUE CURVE>

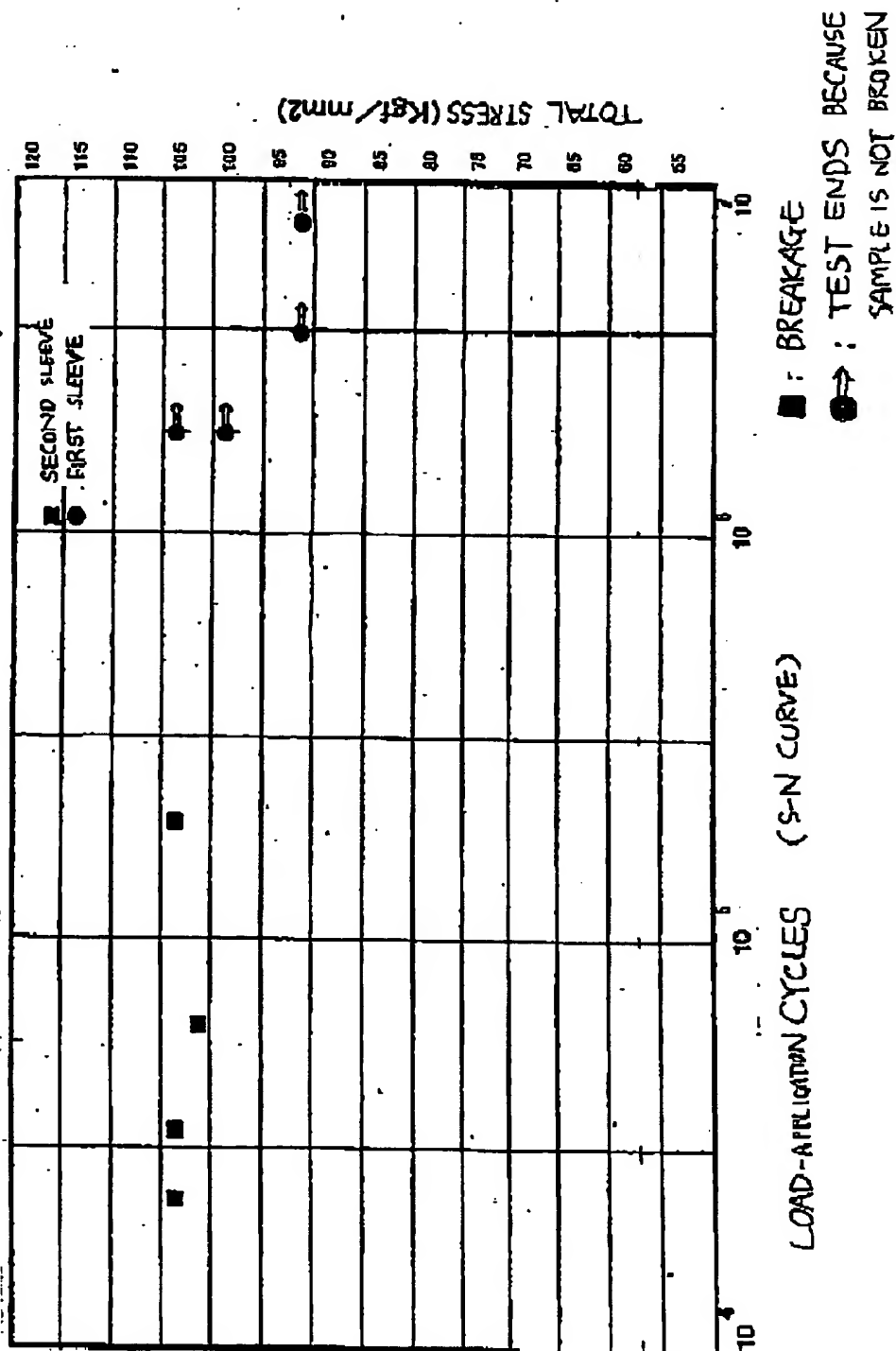
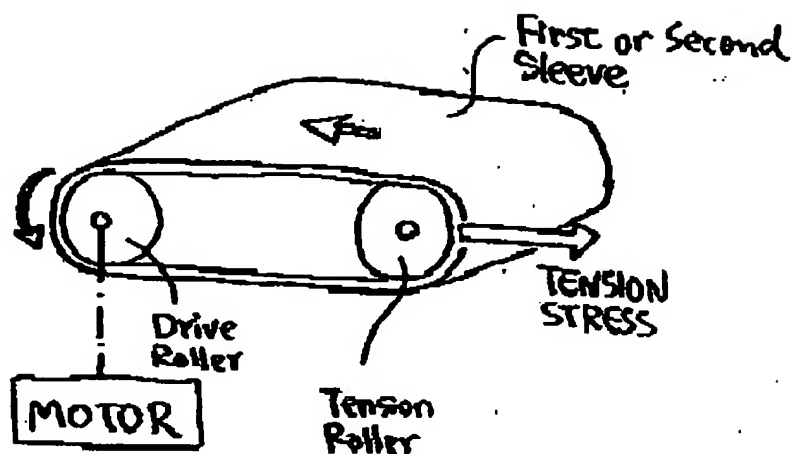




FIG. 4



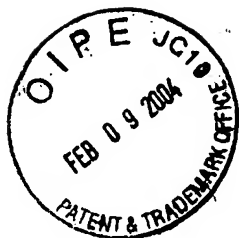
First Sleeve : Spinning-Worked Belt

Second Sleeve : Electroplated Belt

Size (Both) : width 60 mm

Thickness 0.06 mm

Length 319 mm



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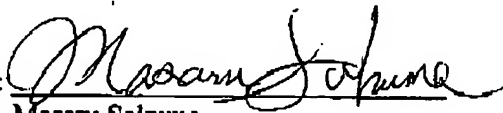
Serial No. 10/375,239
Docket No: NEC TD 098 DIV
Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132

Also, as shown in the attached Figs. 1 and 2, as thickness - reduction rate becomes higher, Vicker's hardness and tensile strength both become higher in a spinning - worked sleeve.

We hereby declare that all statements made hereof of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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FIG. 1

SUS304 (Spinning-Worked)

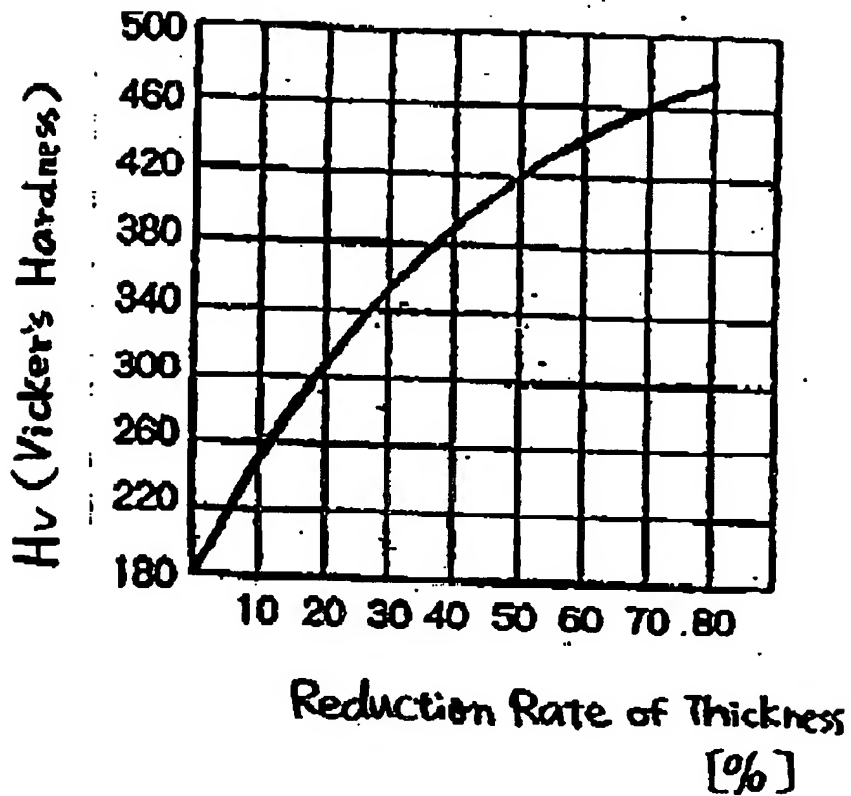




FIG. 2

SUS304 (Spinning-Worked)

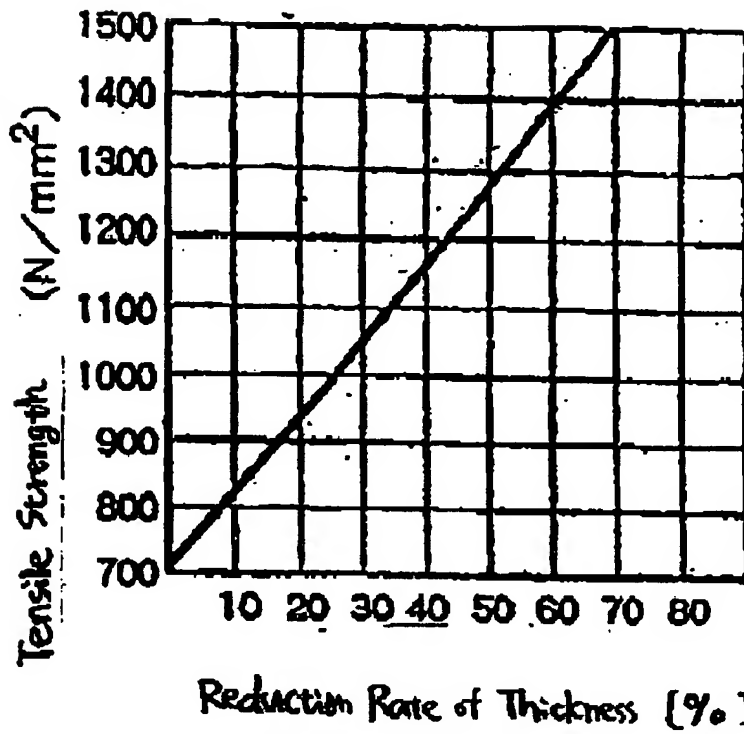
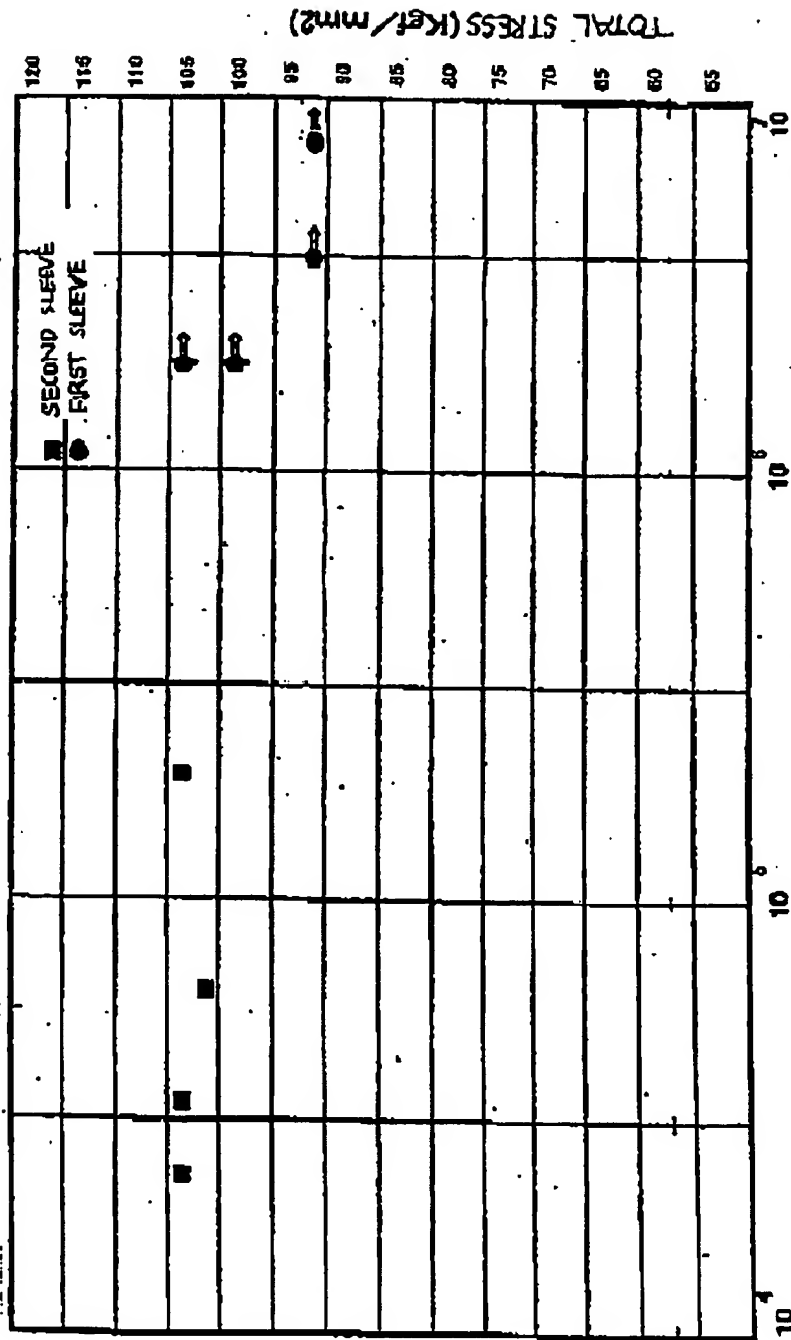




FIG. 3

< FATIGUE CURVE >



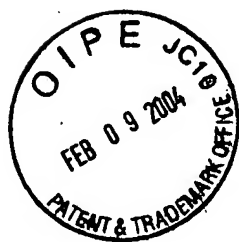
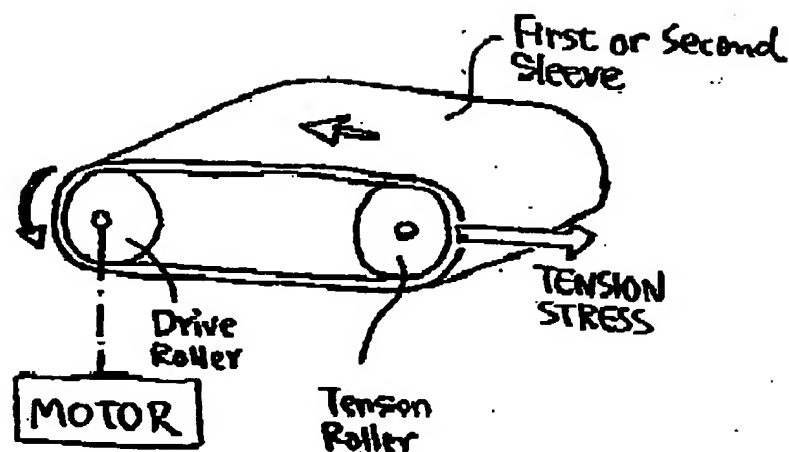


FIG. 4



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